

AIM

ARTISANS IN MINIATURE

Issue 51
June 2014



FREE
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Cover features "Any More Tea, Ducks?" by Carol Bull

www.bagssofcharacter.weebly.com

Designed by Marianne Cook

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Please note

AIM is an active association to which
all members are expected to contribute.

EDITOR'S NOTE

Dear Reader

Apparently it is June and therefore summer here in the UK. Hmmmm.... I have yet to be convinced but will refrain from moaning as miniaturist friends on the other side of the planet are approaching winter – but you still get better temperatures than we do! So was that a moan? Sorry – well, just a bit.

So what do we Brits do here in this rather special summer of commemorating WW1? We take tea of course. For years this has been our solution to all ills. In this issue we celebrate the joys of tea drinking with cake, of course, and other delights.

Summer also brings us the fun of travelling players and circuses, funfairs and outdoor fun. We take a look back at the history of these great entertainments. These entertainers are international and to be celebrated for the joy they bring.

There have been some changes to the editorial team: we said goodbye to Kathi Mendenhall and Janet Smith who both have had to step down for work reasons after an invaluable stint in our highly efficient office. No sniggering, team! We have welcomed three new members who have already found their way around my intricate filing system. (Marianne Cook, my eagle eyed checker, has just proofed this editorial and wondered if I meant “fling system” - she has a point!) Diane Gregory has taken over advertising to start with; Shelly Norris has compiled the show reports and Christine Verstraete will be helping with the Small Scales Gallery which Pauline Coombes has kindly taken on. The stalwarts of the team have done wonders as always.

The lucky draw winners of the roses made by Marianne Cook for our golden anniversary issue 50 are Toni Vanterpool (12th scale) and Aleksandra Gherke (24th scale) Congratulations, ladies. Your prize should be with you soon.

Enjoy Issue 51!

Sally



Artisans In Miniature

*“An association of professional artisans,
dedicated to promoting a high standard
of excellence in original handcrafted scale miniatures...”*

www.artisansinminiature.com

artisansinminiature.blogspot.com

The way in which AIM Association membership is offered has changed!

**Due to an overwhelming uptake of
membership over recent months, as
from July 31st 2010 the AIM Association
now has limited membership places
available...**

The AIM Association was set up in 2007 in order to provide a global platform for professional miniature artisans who wish to **actively promote** their work and **actively take part** and support the opportunities and promotional facilities which AIM uniquely offers for free: notably including...

- The AIM online forum
- FREE AIM magazine
- AIM Member's online directory
- AIM website

*AIM membership is only available for professional miniature artisans,
selling quality handmade miniatures to the public.*

*Membership is reserved for artisans who wish to
showcase & promote their work,
through active participation within the AIM Association.
Please note; A waiting list has now been introduced regarding
new membership applications.*

AIM is completely **FREE** to join and completely **FREE** to be part of.

So... if you are a professional miniature artisan and you would like to find out more about joining the

AIM Association, please email AIM's Membership Secretary: Tony for more information:

tonybroadwood@aol.com

Or alternatively visit our website... www.artisansinminiature.com

"Is there honey still for tea?"

Tea: *a liquid beverage nearly as old as civilization itself.*
Originating in china thousands of years ago, it was imported to Europe perhaps sometime in the 16th century.

Because of its high price and scarcity, in the West tea was originally a beverage drunk only by the rich aristocratic societies of England and France and other 'highly civilized' countries. Eventually, over the centuries, tea became available to everyone, worldwide. Even today little girls delight in having tea parties with their dolls and teddy bears.

Tea is, of course, made from the leaves of the plant. The leaves are treated in various ways: wilted, oxidized, bruised, fermented, etc. How they are treated often determines the name of the tea, ie black tea is wilted, crushed and fully oxidized and green tea is fermented. Tea can be and is made from vegetative materials other than camellia sinensis, as in herbal teas made from just about anything that grows.



Afternoon Tea and the Little Pinky

More social rituals surround the serving and drinking of tea than for any other beverage except perhaps the martini.

To be invited to afternoon tea by a popular socialite was an honor indeed for ladies in past centuries.

The hostess would have on hand all the necessary implements for making and serving the perfect cup of tea: porcelain tea pots and cups and saucers, china milk pitchers, silver spoons and sugar nippers, a silver kettle full of hot water, delicate linen napkins and a priceless lace tablecloth. All of this was, of course, carefully arranged on a small delicate tea table set up in an elegant parlour. Or, if served in the summer, in a perfectly manicured garden. And while the hostess had to adhere perfectly to the polite standards of the day, so too did her guests. One never curled one's fingers inside the handle of the





placing the cup back onto the saucer. The hostess always provided milk, never cream, and sugar, small cubes of sugar, not today's granulated sort. There was also lemon in the form of slices not wedges, and all knew that lemon and milk in the same cup made for a very nasty cup of curdled tea.

Pass the Goodies No Forks Allowed

When afternoon tea became a ritual, all good hostesses knew that something tasty needed to be served along with the tea. It could be simply bread and butter for a less formal occasion among family, or lavish pastries prepared by a whole kitchen staff of pastry chefs. There could be cucumber sandwiches (my favourite) scones, tarts, biscuits and all manner of delicacies that could be eaten with the fingers.

Aha... the beginnings of what we now know as finger foods!

teacup, but carefully placed a finger in front of and behind it. And yes, the little finger was held up in the air, not as an affectation, but as a way to balance the cup. Of course one never slurped nor did one drink out of the saucer! One didn't swirl the spoon in the tea but quietly, and I do mean quietly, 'folded' in the milk and sugar. One with proper social graces never ever made a sound when



The High Price of Tea

When I visited London a few years ago and wanted to fully experience all things 'English'. I asked about going to one of the hotels for 'high tea'. When the concierge told me what the price would be I nearly fell over. "That much for a cup of tea and a cookie?" I said. She then explained high tea to me. It was a full meal and a fancy one at that with several courses which included meat and of course tea (and God forbid... men were and are allowed!) The term, it seems, comes from the fact that while afternoon tea

is served on a low table a bit higher than a coffee table of today, high tea is served on a high, dining room height table and is served later in the day. It has nothing to do with it being 'high and mighty'. High tea is still served in elegant surroundings and with elegant tableware... if done the proper English way that is. Now of course everyone of every economic stature drinks and enjoys tea at all times of the day. Be it freshly brewed, instant from a jar, or packaged in little bags, served hot or cold, we now know that tea is actually very good for us.

"I only know that you may lie
Day long and watch the Cambridge sky,
And, flower-lulled in sleepy grass,
Hear the cool lapse of hours pass,
Until the centuries blend and blur
In Grantchester, in Grantchester. . . .
... oh! yet
Stands the Church clock at ten to three?
And is there honey still for tea?"

Rupert Brooke, *The Old Vicarage, Grantchester*
(Cafe des Westens, Berlin, May 1912)



So Why not Invite a Little Lady to Tea?



I love tea and, being a china painter, like to drink it from a delicate porcelain teacup. My little miniature ladies do too. Before going to their new homes, they learn the proper etiquette of making and drinking tea.

So take a moment some afternoon and invite several of your little miniature ladies into your parlour for an afternoon tea. You can skip the crumpets. And, if your tea comes from a jar, or a little bag instead of an antique silver tea caddy, I promise, your little guests won't faint dead away. ■

Sweet Inspiration by Sally Watson

I travelled halfway around the world for the chance discovery of this sweet inspiration.

What was it? A sugar bowl!

Yes, a sugar bowl, circa 1920/30s, made by the very English potters, Lancaster from Hanley, UK, who now feature regularly on eBay. How this little piece made its journey down under I have yet to discover but it caught my eye when I was staying with a dear friend in Western Australia. She had received it from a friend who was moving and having a clear out and was similarly attracted to it.

I loved the colours of the rather oriental decorative finish and took a number of photographs in the hope of using them for a miniature. On returning home, the photos lurked in my folders for some time.

As a fairly small decoration to start with I felt that reducing it further would diminish its impact so I decided upon a two sided folding screen structure. The curved shape of the container meant that all the images were rather distorted. Photoshop to the rescue! With much cropping, filling and resizing I eventually came up with an acceptable 'flat' image for the unmolded side of the readymade bare wood screen I had in my stash. This left the paneled side to be considered. With more cropping and sizing and the use of my DTP programme I managed to select some of the individual flower images and size them for each panel.

A gentle sanding, the use of some matte paint, glue, a metallic trim and varnish resulted in a 12th scale screen that then winged its way back to WA and is now, I am happy to say, displayed next to its ancestor.

Now I am taking a more inquisitive look at my china collection.....watch this space!



Lots of Teapots...



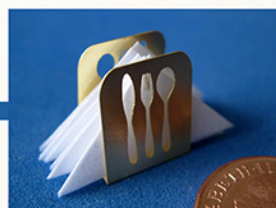
and a Tea Urn



A Well-Earned Rest!



“Now, of course,
everyone of every
economic stature
drinks and enjoys
tea at all times
of the day.”



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- 1 Friends, Viola Williams, www.violasdolls.com
- 2 The Tea Shop, Kay Brooke, www.etsy.com/shop/kaysstudio
- 3 "Another cup please James", Kay Brooke, www.etsy.com/shop/kaysstudio
- 4 Afternoon Tea, Béatrice Thiéris, Les Miniatures de Béatrice, www.etsy.com/shop/Beatrice5804
- 5 Tea Table by Sally Watson, www.sallycatminiatures.com
- 6 Tea Time at the Empress, Jean Day Miniatures, www.jdayminis.com (includes miniatures by other artisans)
- 7 Sugar Bowl Screen by Sally Watson, www.sallycatminiatures.com
- 8 Teapots by Kathy Brindle, <http://kathyb.miniatureartistry.net>
- 9 Teapots by Daisy Carpi, www.etsy.com/uk/shop/DaisysShop, <http://daisycarpi.blogspot.com>
- 10 Tea Urn by Carol Lester, www.thedollshousemall.com
- 11 A Well-Earned Rest, Janet Harmsworth, www.minimannequins.co.uk
- 12 Le Petit Delice, roombox by Judy Lauson, Distinctive Design, www.lauson.ca (includes miniatures by other artisans)
- 13 Accessories and signs by Carol Lester, www.thedollshousemall.com

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formatted by Marianne Cook



Getting to Know You

Meet Lynn Jowers of Miniatures Perfectly Small



I was born in Nottingham in the UK. Creative as a child, I was always cutting out and gluing something. My first dollhouse appeared when I was about eight years old; I have no recollection of where it came from, but I do remember that it was made by Tri-ang.

My brother and sister were always up to mischief; one day they came home with two mice. We children decided to keep their arrival a secret from our parents and put them in my dolls house. To our delight, they had babies, and to this day, I can still see those little furry critters running up and down the stairs, poking their tiny heads through the windows. When my father discovered the mice, and their 13 babies, he ruled that the mice and the house had to go.

Many, many years later, on a visit to our local market there was an auction in progress. Just as I arrived, the auctioneer was holding up a bag of what looked like pieces of wood. I could see doors and windows showing through the bag: it was a dolls' house. Without time to consider if it was complete, I raised my hand and for fourteen pounds, this little treasure was mine.



This bag stored away in the attic for many years but it was never far from my mind. My sister Ann had a dollhouse and it was the highlight of the year to travel with her to Miniatura and the Kensington dollhouse show twice a year. There I would buy little items in readiness for the day when I would have the time to play. I collected many things, from copper pans to bed linen. An exquisite dish made by 'The China Closet', with delicate roses around the top, is my most treasured possession. What a talent



these two sisters have. My ambition is to build a showcase for my collection of 'The China Closet' items.

My husband Dennis had lived in South Africa when young and it was his dream to return one-day. While sitting next to his intensive care bed after he had heart surgery I told myself that if things worked out well we were going to take that trip to South Africa. We did make that trip several times and ultimately made the decision to stay.

Now I had the time to play and I could do it in the sunshine, what more can

anyone wish for? As there is not a lot of choice here for things miniature, I decided to make miniature furniture for myself. My fascination with the large variety of wood that is available here helps me in producing beautiful pieces of small-scale furniture.

Dennis and I had made a few pieces of full size furniture together in the past, so I knew all about mortise and tenon joints and mitered corners. I decided from the outset that my furniture was going to be made in the traditional way. I soon learnt how to make jigs and templates to hold small pieces of wood and to cut around the delicate shapes needed. I bought a lathe and taught myself how to turn tiny finials and spindles; next came the band saw, followed by a small circular saw, scroll saw, small planer, miniature routers.....the list is endless. I do like nice tools.

Now I was living the dream and all in the sunshine. It was never my intention to sell my work. The very primitive website that I have created was intended for my family and friends in the UK enabling them to follow my projects.

*Left page: Lynn at her lathe
12th and 24th rocker cradle*

*Right page: Document shelves
Moving horses*





Kist (storage chest)



*Above: Storage shelves;
below: sewing, knitting & stationery boxes*



It was not long before my items started to appear on Google, it was like magic. Slowly at first, I began receiving enquiries for my pieces from all around the world. And so a small business started.

Living in South Africa, it is not easy for me to exhibit at miniature shows so a few months ago I opened an Etsy shop and, although it was slow at first, it is improving.

It is often said that word of mouth is the best form of advertising. It is proving to be just so, as my customers tend to introduce others who have similar interests and come back themselves time after time.

Like most miniaturists I put my heart and soul into my little creations and, although I have sold hundreds of pieces, I still find it difficult to part with them. But I tell myself that they are going to a good home and will be loved, and that helps.

Text and photographs © Lynn Jowers 2014

www.miniaturesperfectlysmall.com

oneforaim@aol.com

www.etsy.com/shop/LynnJowers

www.pinterest.com/lynnjowers/

Formatted by Sally Watson





Ballet Classes

by Pauline Everett

My ballet dolls came about rather by accident whilst experimenting with posing 12th scale dolls without any support for displaying my removable clothing.

One of the trickiest aspects of designing removable clothing is incorporating an opening with suitable fastenings. Most of my removable garments are made to order or are unique 'one of a kind' creations which can also be used for display purposes if desired.



One day it occurred to me that it might be possible for two dolls to be posed together dancing, perhaps with the female being lifted by the male doll. So using two fairly ordinary porcelain dolls I carefully placed legs and arms to help balance their bodies correctly and with much trial and error was pleasantly surprised at the poses I could achieve. Of course I then wanted to find out whether it would work once they were fully dressed.





Drawing on my love of ballet from my childhood dancing years and having learned much from my trained dressmaker mother's expertise in making all types of dance costumes, I decided on a

'Coppelia' pas de deux theme for the outfits. The romantic style tutu would be the best option for the female as the only doll I had with suitably arched bare feet had bent legs which were porcelain to mid thigh. I also felt the softer skirt would probably make posing the lifts easier too.

I sorted through my many fabrics and picked both cerise and white fine silk, pale pink chiffon and soft pink tulle which I could combine with matching delicate narrow lace and silk ribbon trim. My

design had to include a longish puffed sleeve to cover the upper arm sections which like the upper legs were not porcelain. For better shaping I needed to lightly pad these wired sections and cover them with body stocking fabric.

In order to make the dress removable it required a back opening so using a heavy cotton sewing thread for a crossover lace up worked well with the design. A white silk insert topped with crimson lace at the bust was hand sewn inside the low v-necked bodice using the same crimson lace hand stitched over the join and around the back neckline. Narrow white silk ribbon was added to cover the inner edge of the lace and hand topstitched in place at intervals using crimson polyester thread to form a slightly puffed trim ending with a bow at the centre front waistline. The pink chiffon puffed sleeves were finished with delicate narrow lace.

The skirt was made from two circular layers of tulle with a lace edged chiffon top plate decorated using a



very narrow slightly gathered white chiffon band and tiny flowers taken from the edges of laser cut girls satin hair bows. (These were also used to make the wired floral garland headdress.) The three skirt layers were tacked together around the top edge and hand sewn to a cerise silk basque. The bodice was hand stitched to the basque at the waistline and heavy white cotton threaded into the back opening. White tights in knitted stretch lingerie nylon and tiny pink satin ballet shoes complete the outfit.



The male doll I had needed some extra padding and shaping as he would be wearing tights and a short tunic but this would also help strengthen his stance for supporting the female doll. I used strips of 2oz polyester wadding for padding covered with a fitted white poly cotton bodysuit stitched through and caught at the knees, groin and back to give a better shape.

I wanted his costume to complement the female's so I chose fine crimson velvet for his tunic and used the same fine white silk for the sleeves and collared neckline. I embroidered the tunic fronts before adding fine pink picot trimming cut from fancy satin ribbon and a white trim cut from the outer edge of broderie anglais lace. The tunic front and sleeve cuffs fasten with tiny pearl beads and hand worked loops.

The footless male tights needed a thicker white stretch lingerie nylon with narrow elastic shoulder straps. To entirely cover the doll's black painted boots I made overshoe bootee socks using very fine beige cotton rib topped with a striped ribbon band.



After much experimentation with the dressed dolls I was surprised and delighted with the results I achieved and had so much fun in the process.

I still have the costumes as one day I would really like to try making 12th scale dolls with the correct anatomy for dancers and maybe even a 12th scale stage for them to perform on.



A TASTE OF WALES



CROESO!

Welcome! Living on the Welsh coast, in the heart of Snowdonia, we see lots of visitors flock to the area to enjoy the natural beauty, breathtaking views, places of interest and also our tea shops where you can sample the delights of traditional Welsh afternoon teas. Many of the locals also like to treat themselves, including myself.

Personally since moving to this rural area my 'inner queen of cuisine' has finally begun to surface. To be honest I'm not sure how this has come about. It may be since I have had my little group of feathered ladies who produce the most wonderfully tasty eggs, or more likely as a result of the guilt created from the look of disappointment on my husband's face when he realises yet again that the tasty dish I am making is in miniature. Whatever the reason, I thought I would share with you some traditional Welsh recipes that are a

WELSH CAKES

Welsh cakes are also known as bakestones. In Welsh they are called, *picau ar y maen*, *picau bach*, *cacenni cri* or *teisennau gradell*. These are small cakes cooked on a bakestone which is a cast iron griddle. Welsh cakes are very much like scones.

INGREDIENTS

makes approximately 20 Welsh Cakes

1lb (450g) plain flour
6oz (170g) butter
1 teaspoon baking powder
6oz (170g) caster sugar
pinch of salt
6oz (170g) mixed currants & sultanas
½ teaspoon mixed spice or mace (optional)
1 egg
a little milk



Welsh Cakes

METHOD

- Sift together the flour, baking powder, and salt. Rub in the butter until the mix resembles fine breadcrumbs (this can be done very quickly using a food processor).
- Add the sugar, spice and fruit.
- Mix in the beaten egg and just enough milk (about 3 tablespoons) to make it the same consistency as short-crust pastry.
- Turn out onto a floured board and roll out to a thickness of about 1/2 inch (2 1/2cm).
- Using a 3 inch (8cm) pastry cutter, cut into rounds.
- Heat a lightly greased, heavy based pan or skillet over a medium heat.
- When the pan is hot, cook the Welsh Cakes for about 3 to 4 minutes on each side. If they brown too quickly, lower the heat. When cooked, they will have a brittle, sandy texture inside.
- Serve either hot or cold with butter and jam, sprinkled with a little sugar and cinnamon.

FROM AIM MEMBER DIANE GREGORY

BARA BRITH



Bara Brith



Jam Tarts



Fruit Cake

Bara brith translates as speckled bread. It is a sweet bread which originates in Wales. It is traditionally made with raisins, zante currant (just 'currants' in the UK), candied peel and tea. Produced all over Wales, the spiced fruit loaf is delicious when spread with salted Welsh butter.

In Argentina, bara brith is also known as torta negra, 'black cake'. One of the most traditional foods coming out of the Chubut valleys, it was brought by the Welsh Settlers who started arriving in the country in 1865.

INGREDIENTS

- 450G/1lb self raising flour
- 1tsp mixed spice
- 175g/6oz Muscavado sugar
- 1 medium size free-range egg
- 1tbsp orange zest
- 2tbsp orange juice
- 1tbsp honey
- 300ml/½pt cold tea
- 450g/1lb mixed, dried fruit
- Extra honey for glazing

METHOD

• Put the mixed dried fruit into a mixing bowl, pour over the tea, cover and leave to soak overnight. The next day mix together the sugar, egg, orange juice, zest and honey, add to the fruit. Sift in the flour and spice, and mix well. Pour the mixture into a buttered loaf tin, 1.2L/2pt. Bake in a preheated oven at gas3/160c/325f for about 1¾ hours. The loaf should be golden in colour and firm to the touch in the middle. Baste with honey whilst still warm. Allow to cool thoroughly before storing in a cake tin.

• The flavour of the Bara Brith can be altered slightly by adding a few flavours. When soaking the fruit, substitute ¼ of the fluid with a whisky liqueur. Replace the honey and fruit juice with 2 tablespoons of marmalade. Or, replace two tablespoons of fruit with chopped stem ginger, and replace the juice and honey with lemon marmalade, and the orange zest with lemon.

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www.dollshouseworldinminiature.com

formatted by Marianne Cook

Smaller Scales

By AIM Member Pauline Coombes



Welcome to the smaller scales gallery, where artisans share beautifully detailed work from tiny micro minis to half scale



This lovely Teapot Project in 1:24 Scale made from Paper Mache was first taught in 1996 for NAME national in Crystal City by Pam Junk (*The bunnies are made by Judy Smith*). This fits in so well with the our Tea Time theme .



Pam Junk
<https://www.etsy.com/shop/PamelaJunksMinis>

Today Pam makes her wonderful quarter scale characters, ranging from bunnies, mice, cats and dogs to charming young ladies and Raggedy Ann, ideal for the quarter scale whimsy or as toys for the 1:12 scale nursery.





Robin Betterley's Miniatures and Suzan Andrews Miniatures, having worked once more in collaboration, have created this stunning dwelling called Picket Pond in 1:48 scale (Quarter scale).

Suzanne and Andy designed the house with Robin and Shawn working on the trim and wallpaper along with designing all the furniture kits for the interior to match.



Table, Benches & Boat

Just some of the intricate kits designed for this project by Robin and Shawn showing that quarter scale does not mean giving up on realism.

Uncle Tubby's Bathroom



Auntie's Old Cook Stove



The interior

Robin Betterley's Miniatures
<http://www.robinbetterley.com/>



Camp Kitchen Cabinet



BRIARWOOD a Limited Edition

Well known for wonderful kits, Robin Betterley has created this whimsical room box only available for 2014 and is complete with all the interior furniture kits, plinth and ladder.

The bunny front has a Perspex view into the tiny interior in quarter scale.

Robin Betterley's Miniatures
<http://www.robinbetterley.com/>



Adding to the ever popular secret books the new range of Teeny Weeny Books are in micro scale.

This tiny Bird Retreat book stands only 1 1/8 inch high and 3/4 inch wide when closed..

I think this is a case of tweezers and steady hands and there are Teeny Weeny Twiddly Bits kits available to fill the interiors.



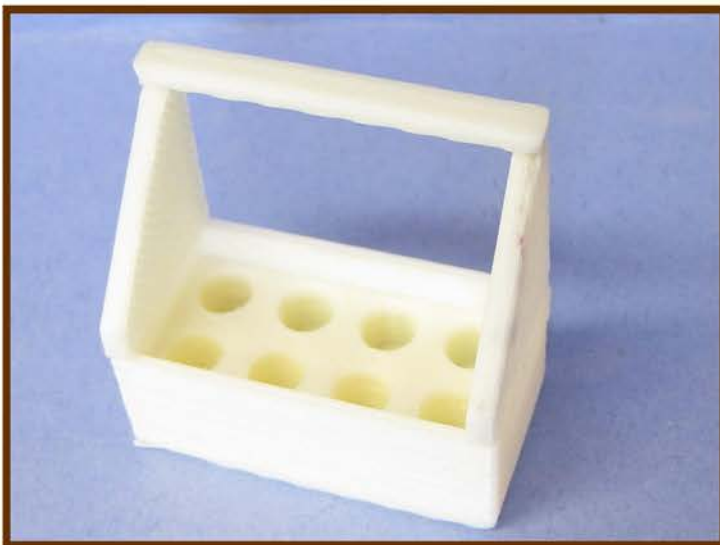


With summer just around the corner, the thoughts of ice-cream and sunshine are high on the agenda.

Janet has created this a modern ice cream shop kit including all the items shown for that summer scene in quarter scale.



Made with a 3D printer you can buy the quarter scale patio or café set with the table tops available in several different colours.



The 3D printed ice cream counter comes with room for 8 different flavours.

Janet gives you instructions on how to fill with air dry clay and paint the ice cream and suggests you may need four of these tiny counters if you intend to offer all 32 flavours in your ice cream parlour.

Wonder if that includes Amaretto ?



Janet Smith—Desert Minis
<http://desert-minis.com/>



Keeping to the summer theme, Carol Kubrican has designed this pagoda kit for the garden or an outdoor scene in 1:48 scale.

The "wrought iron" chair kit (with 4 chairs only 2 in the photo), is very detailed, especially when you realise that the chairs are only 5/8 inch tall (16mm). Even the table has a tiled look top to keep in with the outdoor theme.

Afternoon tea in the garden anyone?

This would look rather good outside a French patisserie.

This tiny silicon mold lets you make as many 1-48 scale cupcakes as you want: two separate sections give you one for the cupcake and one for the icing. Ideal to share with a nice cup of tea.

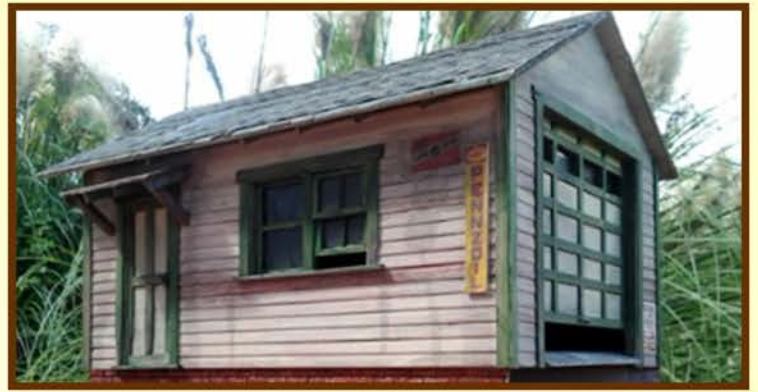


Carol M. Kubrican - True to Scale
<http://www.true2scale.com/>

These intricate kits supply everything you see to make the shelf with trimmings and the cups, saucers and teapot to complete.

The dishes and decals can be purchased separately and you can design your own finishes, so plenty of ways to create tea time for any season.





Half scale Garage from Lloyd Cooper that was commissioned, shows the wonderful realism he adds to all his work. You can see more photos of this work at <https://lostcreekstationminiatures.shutterfly.com>



Lloyd Cooper
lostcreekstation@cox.net



Lloyd is sharing with us one of his scratched built buildings for a diorama he is working on in 1:48 scale. The old building shows its dilapidated state all boarded up at the front with holes appearing in the roof and walls.

All images contained in this article are © 2014 to the individual artisans.

The text and formatting is by Pauline Coombes © 2014



Brambly Hedge—Furniture

A whimsical illustration of a beaver family in a two-story house made of sticks and straw. Two beavers are sitting at a table in the lower level, while another beaver is visible in the upper level. The house is surrounded by tall grass and flowers.

All the tutorials are simple but produce an effective result and hopefully will inspire you to try out some designs for yourself.

by Pauline Coombes



Plates and flowers for the table

Or use a tiny bead with sprinkles for a flower arrangement.

Cushion for the chair or bed

Using a 1/8" circle punch and coloured card, punch out the circles. Use a ball tool to shape the circle. This can be left as it is and glued into the corner of the chair or bed or use flocking filled and covered to create a fluffy looking cushion.

A little basket of nuts or berries

Take a piece of buckram 5/8"x 1/16". Curl it round a toothpick to give it curvature and then glue the short ends together to make a circle. May need to hold with tweezers or use a quick grab glue.

When dry, glue the circle to a piece of buckram and when dry trim to shape, see diagram.

For the handle cut a piece of buckram 1/32" x 7/8", curl round a toothpick to give the curve. The handle can be shortened if required. Glue to the outside of the basket to create the handle.

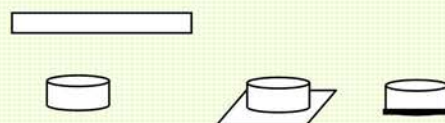
When glue has dried the basket can be painted, dry-brushed, or left natural.

Now fun raid the spice cupboard or flower seeds packets – I used mustard seeds, some onion seeds and poppy seeds.

Alternatively some red no-hole beads would look like tiny fruit.

The Basket is $3/16''$ base $5/16''$ tall , see Fig 22

Alternatively, make the basket from paper and paint.



Tip: you can change the sizes for different types of baskets, leave off the handles to create log baskets and make the shape more oval, lots of ways of doing this.



Blog of the Moment

Patricia Paul

Fine Art - Unusual & Unique
Artisan and Collector



Great Dane



Hello! I started my blog on Blogger in 2012.

I first began so I could promote my business and my miniature creations. And I focus on some of that on the blog. But then I began to realize that much of miniature history has begun to get lost and Googling a lot of past artisans results in nothing. So many have gone before the internet so Googling is pointless. Unless that work and those artisans are kept alive online they will be lost forever. Blogging is a way to get that done.

Since I have been a collector and artisan for a very long time people often ask me if I recognize a vintage piece and I

often do. And while I foolishly sold an entire collection when my kids were born I managed to start another one and have featured those items and named the artisans on my blog. And I hope to continue doing both vintage/obscure miniatures and my own work.

While I am very inconsistent as a blogger everyone has been very enthusiastic and supportive and they have asked me for more, which is encouraging. I do wish for more comments but people seem hesitant and will send me a private email instead. But commenting and then adding your website/blog URL in the comment gets your work out there and helps all of us. So, people, leave a comment and promote yourself in the process.



Gargoyle bed with
mice infestation

Patricia Paul Studio

Miniatures for the Discerning Collector

The Unique and Unusual in 1:12 Scale

FINE ART in 'Little' ~ Miniatures for the Serious Collector

Tuesday, July 23, 2013

The Mad Hatter At Home

"Begin at the beginning and go on till you come to the end. Then stop."
Lewis Carroll

My favorite character in Alice in Wonderland is the Mad Hatter. Inspired by the fairly recent Alice movie starring be-still-my-heart Johnny Depp and made by the quirky Tim Burton my miniature motivation started brewing and an old clock case called to be put into use.

I envision the Mad Hatter to be a curious fellow, for whom it is always teatime. Of course, he is mad, which is his charm, but also creative, messy and he lives in clutter because imaginative and mad people really do not have time for tidying things up. He's also absent minded and forgets where he left his tea.



Old clock case now a miniature diorama

"Would you tell me please, which way I ought to go from here?"
"That depends a good deal on where you want to get to."
"I don't much care where -"
"Then it doesn't matter which way you go," LC

Sometimes you just have to start. Jump in and go. There had to be the black and white checks but the rest was up for grabs and became purple. Probably because I found scrap book paper with a Mad Hatter theme. And that was the start. I already had a tall chair I had made for a customer for whom it did not suit but I liked the chair and it looks like the Mad Hatter's chair so that became the first furnishing. And yet the Cheshire Cat, who can vanish at will, is. The amazing cat was made for me by Kerri Pajutee. How about that grin?



The Cheshire Cat made by Kerri Pajutee

Featured in



Miniature Collector

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Always the Unique and Unusual

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May 22 (1)
Apr 24 (1)
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Kist (storage chest)



*Above: Storage shelves;
below: sewing, knitting & stationery boxes*



It was not long before my items started to appear on Google, it was like magic. Slowly at first, I began receiving enquiries for my pieces from all around the world. And so a small business started.

Living in South Africa, it is not easy for me to exhibit at miniature shows so a few months ago I opened an Etsy shop and, although it was slow at first, it is improving.

It is often said that word of mouth is the best form of advertising. It is proving to be just so, as my customers tend to introduce others who have similar interests and come back themselves time after time.

Like most miniaturists I put my heart and soul into my little creations and, although I have sold hundreds of pieces, I still find it difficult to part with them. But I tell myself that they are going to a good home and will be loved, and that helps.

Text and photographs © Lynn Jowers 2014

www.miniaturesperfectlysmall.com

oneforaim@aol.com

www.etsy.com/shop/LynnJowers

www.pinterest.com/lynnjowers/

Formatted by Sally Watson



All the world's a stage...



© Tori West

or a screen...

or a village hall...

The history of entertainment goes way back beyond living memory; it is difficult to know where to start.

*Here, dear reader, we combine the Members' Gallery
with the first part of a potted history of entertainment
illustrated by work from our talented members*

Tribal dancing and cave painting have more to do with beliefs and culture but surely would have been entertaining unless you happened to be a human sacrifice. The use of music, costumes and ritual all play a vital role in these festivities which could well be termed 'theatre' in the widest sense of the word: a place to see. This implies an audience for the activities so this is where I think the entertainment aspect begins; the physical structure of a theatre is a later development.

For the first recorded form of European theatre we need to look to Ancient Greece around 600 B.C. for a religious festival to honour Dionysus, the god of wine and fertility. The poet Thespis won a dramatic play competition at the festival and is considered to be the first actor resulting in the reference to actors as thespians. Thespis also introduced the use of masks in Greek theatre. Masks were designed to show age and emotion. We still see these as the masks of comedy and tragedy, the latter being considered the finer form. As women were not allowed to perform men wore female masks and played their parts.

Some three centuries later the Romans, inspired by the Greek tradition, had written Latin versions and comedy became the popular form with women being allowed to perform minor roles. An audience used to watching public executions, chariot races and gladiator contests demanded a high level of entertainment resulting in spectacular public theatres, stage violence and often crude humour. So what's new today, I have to ask!



Dame Edna
© Eileen Sedgewick

In medieval Europe theatre buildings were not allowed, being thought sinful. However, this did not stop the entertainers from plying their craft as wandering minstrels, acrobats, puppeteers, jugglers and storytellers. They traversed the countryside, towns and villages on foot, by horse and by wagon. They would either convert the wagon into a makeshift stage or erect a platform in a market place or suitable open area in order to entertain the crowd.

As Christians considered this kind of entertainment a sin, they developed their own kind of theater. During an Easter Sunday service, priests acted out the meaning of the holy day to help teach people who could not read. These 'miracle' plays became so popular that there was not enough room to perform in the church and they moved outside. They were still considered religious events and not entertainment but it must have been a very fine line.



The Renaissance period, from the fourteenth to the seventeenth centuries, as the term implies, saw the re-birth of interest in classical Greek and Roman art, culture and theatre. Two major theatre design traditions were developed at this time in Italy: the now familiar proscenium arch that frames and divides the stage from the audience and the art of painting scenery cloths as backdrops for the stage action. This style was widely copied throughout the European cities.

Another major influence from Italy was the *Commedia dell' Arte*, an improvised, quick-witted performance by wandering players. The performers wore masks to portray a regular cast of characters and improvised their lines around a set story as they went along. Some of the best known characters are



Masks by Tori West

now remembered as Harlequin and Columbine along with Scaramouche. The daughters and wives of the players were some of the first women to perform in theatre.

In England, Queen Elizabeth I strongly supported the theatre. During Elizabethan times one of the most famous playwrights in history began penning his vast output of plays and poetry. Born in 1564, William Shakespeare was an actor and poet, who wrote plays for his company, the *Lord Chamberlain's Men*, to perform. He is most closely associated with The Globe theatre in London, now rebuilt, and still attracting large audiences, many of whom are happy to stand in the circular auditorium or be seated on very hard benches – take a cushion if you visit today! Scenery and sets were minimal – a tree or two to represent a forest for example – whilst the galleried area above the stage represented a different place, most famously the balcony for Romeo to woo Juliet. There was also a curtained area beneath the stage to represent Hell – ideal for the appearance of the witches to Macbeth – and an inner stage behind the main platform.

Performances took place in daylight before the advent of electricity although in later times candles and gaslight were used. Sadly this resulted in a number of theatres burning down. Things got worse in England during Oliver Cromwell's time between 1642 and 1660. The Puritans considered theatre to be sinful and sought to banish it, demolishing many theatres. The Restoration period, when the flamboyant Charles II returned from exile in France in 1660, saw many happy developments in the performing arts.

At weekends, Victorian families might go to the park, and listen to a band. Crowds would gather round the bandstand to enjoy the music. Zoos were also popular. Children and parents could gape in awe at the exotic



Cortigiana

"Inside my heart is breaking, my make-up may be flaking, but my smile stays on"

www.eileensedgwick.com

Funfairs had steam powered roundabouts, slides and swings, coconut shies, shooting galleries and sideshows with strongmen, fire-eaters, jugglers and fortune-tellers. Circuses put on shows in big tents, and often paraded into the town on arrival with the clowns, elephants, horses and camels. Children laughed at Punch and Judy, a one-man travelling puppet show. This is still popular despite the original depicting wife-beating and animal cruelty as an acceptable form of entertainment. Times change – don't they?



The Victorians loved theatre, and most towns had at least one theatre or music hall. At Christmas, privileged children were taken to the pantomime. This was often a lavish show with exciting special effects (lights, smoke, loud bangs, live animals). Poor children who could not afford a theatre seat might get a job in the pantomime as 'juvenile dancers' or 'crowds'. Children paid a penny to get into the cheap music halls, and came out whistling the latest popular song. Ballet and opera were very popular with the more wealthy.

Now, of course, we have many other ways to enjoy performances and entertainment of other sorts: the screens of cinema and television. Indoor games and puppet shows all play their part in the huge area of entertainment. I will explore these more fully in a future article. During all this development open-air performers still continue to spread their talents through the popularity of street theatre and buskers, Mummers and Morris Dancers. Long may they continue.



Last call for curtain up...



Ballet costumes by Louise Goldsborough
of Angelique Miniatures



Dressing table by Kathy Brindle
of KathyBee Mimiatures and More



All dancers on stage please...



Above right
Eileen Sedgewick

All others
Angelique Miniatures



*Spending an evening with the screens....
TV or cinema? Your choice.*



Above and below centre Janet Harmsworth's interpretation of characters from UK TV hit 'Mr Selfridge'
Below left the Dowager Countess from Downton Abbey and right Jane Cobden from 'Ripper Street'

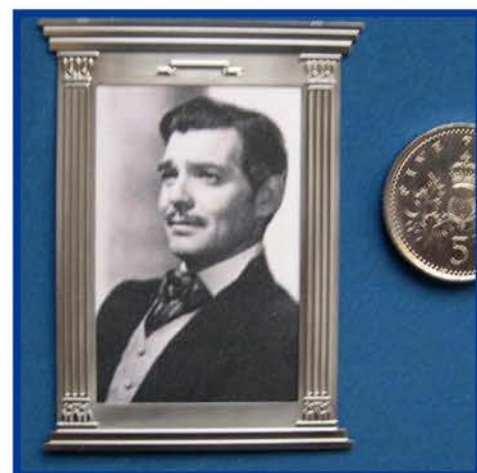




Framed Film Stars
Dolls House Mall

Dorothy & Eliza Doolittle
Mini mannequins

Marylin over the air vent
Angeliqe Miniatures



*Looking for some alternative
entertainment? Look no further.*



Left Lily Savage
Below right Magician
Mini mannequins



Right Gambler
Viola Williams

Below Left
Gaming table
KathyBee



*Partying? Need to go incognito?
Try a beautiful mask...*



1/12 scale masks made by Liz McInnis using a variety of materials, including polyclay, silk, leather, feathers, glitter and rhinestones. Some of the sticks are made of antique glass bugle beads.

See the project pages for a mask making project from Tori West further on in this issue.



Cast and crew...

in alphabetical order...



Kathy Brindle

www.kathybee.net

Louise Goldsborough

www.angeliqueminiatures.co.uk

Janet Harmsworth

www.minimannequins.co.uk

Carol Lester

www.thedollshousemall.com

Liz McInnis

dmcinnis47@hotmail.com

Eileen Sedgewick

www.eileensedgwick.com

Tori West

www.meadowlanestudios.com

Viola Williams

www.violasdolls.com

All images © the individual artisans 2014

Text © Sally Watson

Formatted by Sally Watson



*Tori West shows how to make
two different masks*

A four-pointed star-shaped object, possibly a piece of pottery or a decorative artifact, with a textured surface. The object is divided into four main segments: two yellow segments at the top and bottom, and two red segments on the left and right. There are also black segments at the intersections of the yellow and red segments. Two circular holes are visible, one on the left and one on the right, suggesting it might be a pendant or a small container. The object is set against a light blue background.





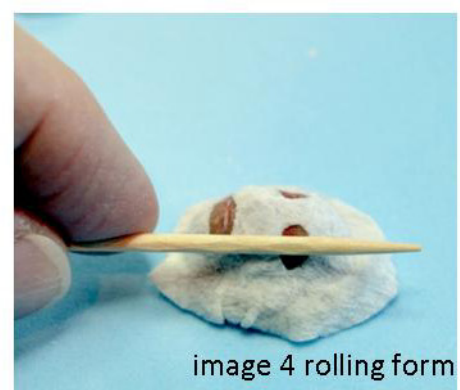
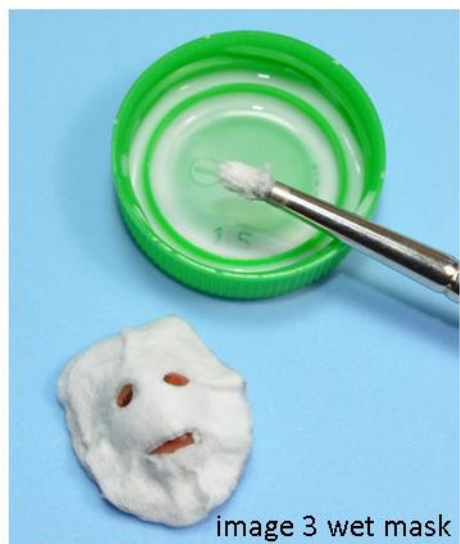
Image 1

Image 2

Image 3



image 2 glue form



paints, paint brushes, acrylic varnish, and
embellishments of your choice

Image 14

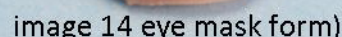
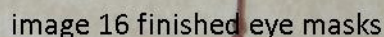


Image 15

Image 16



Formatting by Sally Watson

Cross over Crafts



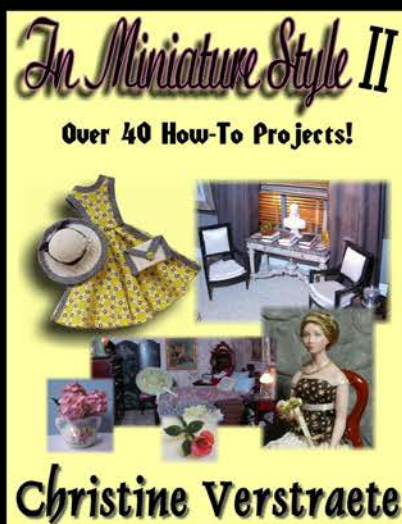
AIM member Christine Verstraete combines writing with miniatures

I'm one of those 'hybrids' I guess, someone who has to create, be it in crafts, miniatures or writing. I have to do both.

While my main writing is in straight journalism--stories for newspapers and magazines - I can't help but write about miniatures. The bonus is getting to write about something you truly enjoy! So it seemed a natural progression to write a nonfiction book, as well, as I wanted to weave together the things I enjoyed - sharing how-to projects, showcasing the work of other miniaturists, and writing profiles on them. That was the basis for my first ebook, *In Miniature Style*, and the subsequent expanded print version and ebook, *In Miniature Style II*.



I've been working in miniature (gasp!) some 20 or so years, having gotten hooked after getting an inexpensive dollhouse kit. I discovered dollhouse shows and have been hopelessly committed (or I should be?) ever since. Even if I'm running out of display room, I-don't-want-to-quit! The thing I love most about the hobby is that it encompasses so many areas and allows me to try different crafts - needlework, painting, design, furniture making, building, things I couldn't - or wouldn't - want to do or be able to do in real life! ha! I especially like trying new things and am hooked right now on shabby chic and making items for a lady's shop.



I guess if I had to choose a title, I'd say I'm a crafter miniaturist, I love making things. I do try to make most everything myself, though I admire the work of others and buy certain items I may like. But I have my limitations (creative and financial), of course. I especially enjoy putting kits together or changing the appearance of something already made. I also like doing projects from tutorials and patterns. I guess I like the challenge, (or is this frustration sometimes?) (A shameless plug for Petite Properties' fun kits: I've enjoyed the 1/24th furniture kits I've made so far!)

The best part of doing miniatures, I think, is the friendships you make, both near and far. I've enjoyed getting to know wonderful miniaturists I've interviewed and written about. I met my Dutch friend Kitty Balke years ago via a pen pal program (remember writing letters anyone?) and we're still talking minis, except now it's online. We share projects, trade things, do an annual Christmas gift exchange, and she even came to the US for a visit. Another fun part is getting together with friends like Gigi Nephew to chat and work on mini projects.



When creating, be it in miniature or in writing, I'm inspired by a beautiful photo, something someone made, an amazingly lifelike miniature house, or sometimes an event. As I began writing more fiction, I noticed that ideas can come from anywhere and often appear unexpectedly. I'm a long-time horror fan so the fact I'm slowly writing more horror and paranormal as with my recent young adult book (print and ebook), *GIRL Z: My Life as a Teenage Zombie*, is no surprise. (As she's a part-zombie, the book is not your typical zombie story. And no, she doesn't eat "that.") You can read the prologue and download Chapter 1 at my website, <http://www.cverstraete.com/girlz-teenage-zombie-book.html>

Of course, if I *had* to pick a favourite activity, writing or miniatures – I couldn't. I HAVE to do both. I can't stop. The drawback is I have LOTS of stuff—boxes of miniatures and supplies, paints, fabrics, wood, etc. And then there are the books and papers and clippings and... I'm sure many (most?) of you know what I mean.

When it comes to picking a favourite miniature project I made, that's also tough as I enjoyed working on each one. Most of my projects are 1/12th scale, but I am working more in half scale since I like it and, well, it takes up less room! Plus it's just 'cute.'

Some of my many projects include:

- A half scale yellow house is a favourite, both for its color and it has a lot of details I enjoyed making.
- The Tudor Tea Shoppe includes my memories of past trips to England and my interest in the Royal family and Princess Diana.
- My Teapot Shoppe was also fun to work on as I could collect a bunch of miniature teapots, including many made by my friend, Kitty. There's something addicting and fascinating about collecting a bunch of the same things in miniature, isn't there? Or maybe it's mini OCD – I'm doing rows of shoeboxes, shoes and purses right now... One is simply not enough!





Raggedy Ann & Andy room

Tudor Tea Shoppe





If I had to pick a favourite, though, my Raggedy Ann and Andy room always makes me smile. I really loved designing everything in one colour scheme and around the theme. And as you can see, I definitely got over a fear I once had about mixing patterns—big time! The nice thing about a project like this is you don't always have to do a huge room box to include a lot of detail and have just as much fun putting it together.

So, I think that is enough about me. More photos offer some of my work and details about my books and writing are at my website, <http://cverstraete.com>.

I also share some miniature work at my blog, <http://candidcanine.blogspot.com> and share a blog about horror related writing and things at <http://girlzombieauthors.blogspot.com>. You can also friend me on Facebook -<https://www.facebook.com/christine.verstraete>. I hope you'll stop by and say hello.

Text and images © Christine Verstraete 2014 details above

Formatting by Sally Watson

The Victorian World in Miniature

Queen Victoria ruled from 1819 to 1901 over an empire that spanned the world. It was an age of scientific enquiry and development which radically changed the way we think. It was an age of steam which saw the growth of industry and urbanisation, the expansion of rail transport and the early development of the internal combustion engine bringing the motor car to our roads.

In the kitchen, this period saw the beginnings of many appliances and conveniences we take for granted today. And the kitchen is where the first article in this new series about the Victorian World in Miniature will focus.

Victorian town and country kitchens were usually large compared with today and used solely for cooking. Sinks were more often found in a separate scullery, next to the kitchen.

The kitchen would have a cold slab floor, but in grander homes, the cook might stand on wooden duckboards placed around the table. A high ceiling and high windows helped with

ventilation as the cast iron stoves and ranges were in use constantly during the day for cooking and baking, generating a lot of heat.

Although gas ranges were shown in the Great Exhibition of 1851, it was not until the 1890s that gas ovens began to replace solid fuel ranges. People were afraid of explosions and fumes that might make food unsafe to eat.



Kitchen tools in 1/12th and 1/24th scale

one: *in the Victorian Kitchen*

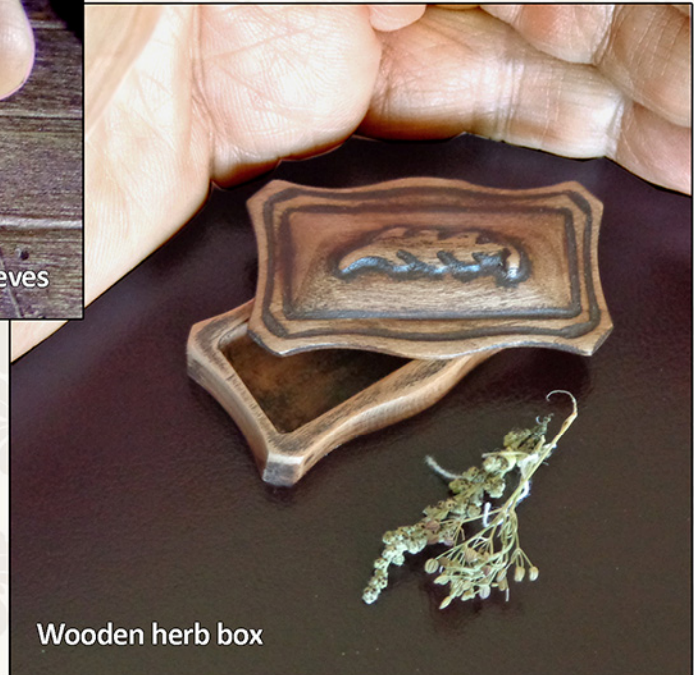


by AIM member
Lynn Jowers



Set of sieves

These little flour sieves/sifters are just amazing and making them was a real challenge. They are made 100% in the traditional way, perfect in every detail. The wood is thin veneer which I have had to steam to make it into a small circle without it breaking, the gauze is cut from very fine steel and of course they really will sieve flour to perfection.



Wooden herb box

There would be a large table in the middle of the room. Around the walls of the kitchen were shelves and sideboards, and these together with hooks provided the storage necessary for all the kitchenware.

These items would include copper and brass saucepans, jugs and decorative jelly moulds, which came in an amazing variety of shapes.

Cast iron was used in the making of saucepans, cooking pots, mincers, grinders and knife sharpeners.



Reconstruction of a modest working Victorian kitchen, Museum of Lincolnshire Life (photo courtesy ReptOn1x, Wikipedia Commons). The kitchen table would have been regularly scrubbed, and (cold) water raised by the pump at the sink. Running water became more available during the period, but only grand houses towards the end would have had hot water on tap (faucet). Note the family's tin bath standing against the wall, which, once a week, would have been filled with hot water, placed in front of the range and used by each person in turn. Only towards the end of the period did the idea of inside bathrooms begin to be more generally accepted.

kitchen tools

The kettle would be in use most of the day, kept on the stove for a constant supply of hot water. It could be made of copper, but usually only in better-off homes. More commonly it would be cast iron.

There would also be many wooden items such as a variety of rolling pins, boards for chopping and cutting as well as boards used to serve bread and cheese etcetera.

Wooden spoons in many shapes and sizes, biscuit moulds, wooden framed sieves, butter scrapers and butter curlers were amongst the necessities in the kitchens in those far off days.

The Victorian kitchen was a hive of activity where the staff would prepare the food in the larger houses and the family would gather in the smaller homes.

In the country houses where livestock may have been kept, additional wooden items could be found such as decorative butter stamps and butter pats.

Things like butter churns, pancheons (mixing bowls), and water filters were made from earthenware, a type of pottery made from porous clay that has been fired at a low temperature.

Bottles, cooking pots, storage jars and some hot water bottles were made from stoneware. Stoneware is also made from clay, but it is fired at a higher temperature and then glazed.



Butter curlers



Butter pats with stamps



Victorian shelf with kitchen tools



Mouse cheese board with tray

Lynn also makes kitchenware using traditional methods, styled for more modern miniature kitchens.



Chopping boards

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 Miniatures Perfectly Small ~ <http://www.miniaturesperfectlysmall.com>
www.etsy.com/shop/LynnJowers ~ <http://www.pinterest.com/lynnjowers/>
 email: oneforaim@aol.com

formatted by Marianne Cook

Kensington Dollhouse Festival



By AIM Member Monste Vives
of Minimonste, minimonste.jimdo.com

TWO DAYS IN...LONDON?

It's amazing how miniature fans can manage to visit a place, such as one of the greatest cities in the world, and not see a bit of it! That's what me and my friend (and co-organizer of Barcelona Miniaturas) Beatriz did on the 17th and 18th of May.



Ellenora Capelletti



Gale Bantock

hotel) we headed directly to the Festival. My fear was to fall asleep looking at some table, but the incredible size and quality of the Festival acted as the blackest of coffees: we woke up instantly and found energy we didn't know we had. The venue is a bit of a labyrinth, so I would suggest anyone visiting the Fair to study carefully the floor plans provided by the organization. There is also a refreshment area, with nice food at nice prices.

I could pick up some orders and put faces together with e-mails. I could also speak to the Broadwoods (Mr. and Mrs. Bea) who were quite busy behind the Petite Properties stand. I also got an autograph from Jamie Carrington, so charming and good humored as I imagined him, and seeing his dolls in person was a great experience.

Our plan was to spend both days at the Kensington Dollhouse Festival. So we bought our plane tickets (7:00am), and our two day tickets for the Festival, and we booked one night at a small, family run hotel near the venue, Bluebells Hotel.

On Saturday the 17th we woke up at a criminal hour of: 4:00 am in the morning. We had to take the bus to the airport, pass the security control, and get some caffeine before the flight. Once we got to London (after a bit of getting lost finding the



Leslie Smith

About the wonders I saw: A great, haute couture store, by Mulvany and Rogers. The structure was wonderful and it was packed with the work of great artisans such as Patrizia Santi or Lourdes Cruces. Amazing, my friend and I both agreed that, if we even win the lottery, we will commission something similar!



There was also Ray Storey and his lamps; Georgina Ritson and her sweet dolls; Sally Meekins and her ceramics; Aidan Campbell and his paper toys; Lucy Askew and a reproduction of Lord Nelson's coffin, Robert Stubbs and his excellent Tudor houses...as well as the work of artisans we already knew, such as David Iriarte, Teresa Martínez, and Eleonora Capelletti.

We went to bed very early, and slept peacefully. Sunday was a bright, sunny day, and it was quieter at the Festival. We had time to

chat with fellow artisans, have a better look at the Fair, and spend some money. Too much in fact. We spent almost all our pounds and even some euros, and were only left with a few pounds for lunch!

Due to the splendid weather, we had our lunch at Kensington Gardens, in the grass. That was all the tourism we could make...fortunately, the festival provided for some souvenirs.

I bought a house from Petite Properties that I built with my 5 year old son during next week. Right now it's inhabited by Mr. Dino and some Lego people...

Monste Vives



Chicago International Miniatures Show

Show Report One



By AIM Member Wendy Smale

Wendy's Miniatures—silk pillows & natural history in miniature

wendysminiatures.com

shop.ebay.com/merchant/wendysminiatures

It's almost three weeks since the Chicago International show at which I was a first time dealer, but I still feel as though I am playing catch-up. I want to say "Thank you" first to Alison Fleming, who showed up early on to give me an AIM badge from Sally. It's now safely tucked away for future shows too. I also met her briefly a couple more times too, and she was always smiling.

My table was opposite Kathryn and Alan Gray of Templewood Miniatures, and they were also very helpful and good company. Alan got me sorted out on a better way to attach my table label (pin hooks or safely pins), along with the warning to remove it myself before Tom Bishop whipped it off at the end of the show and pulled my table covering off too! Kathryn's little woodland creatures are adorable, and I was intrigued by their building kits, especially the windows.

On Sunday night I joined Kathryn, Alan, and one of their customers/friends for dinner, and had a wonderful conversation with Alan, with the conversation ranging from the technicalities of laser cutting to the origin of various traditional sayings. Turns out we have a shared interest in archaeological sciences too.

The show itself was fantastic - as big, impressive, inspiring and potentially overwhelming as I was led to expect. I was pleased with how I did, and I'm waiting to hear if I've been accepted back for next year. I got a few brief breaks away from my table and was able to see some wonderful miniatures and meet a few artisans that I had only heard of previously.

All the best,

Wendy Smale

Chicago International Miniatures Show

Show Report 2

By AIM Member Liz McInnes
www.elizabethmcinnis.com/

April 11th – 13th were the dates of this year's Chicago Show, the show was located at the Marriott Chicago O'Hare in Chicago Illinois, USA. Several days prior to the actual dates of the show Workshops were held. I was a dealer at the show.

The show cost \$25 for the all-day preview on Friday, which got you into the show for the rest of the weekend as well. The preview was restricted to 600. For those who didn't want to attend the Friday preview (or couldn't because it was sold out) the show was \$8 for adults, \$4 for children.

The cost of a 6' table for the show was \$300. I don't know exactly how many dealers there were but there were about 246 tables and booths.

The ad also said that there were artists from 17 countries, though of course there are always cancellations so I have no idea if they all ended up represented.

Workshops began Monday morning, April 7, and ran through Thursday evening, April 10. There were 63 workshops. Some ran for several days while others were just two or three hours. The most expensive was \$1650 while the least expensive was \$35 - in other words, there was something for everyone.



There was an auction held by I.G.M.A. for quite a number of pieces donated by I.G.M.A. artisans. The auction was for the benefit of I.G.M.A. and was a new event at the show. I did not attend the auction so I can't give more details.

All the normal scales were represented!

Seeing old friends is always the biggest highlight for me! But there were fabulous minis there too, obviously. One thing in particular that was new and different for me was a 1/12-scale arrangement of flowers in an urn - the whole thing so delicate and stunningly realistic - that was made entirely out of seashells of different sizes and colors. Some of the shells were no bigger than a period. I would have snapped it up but it was over \$5000. And I am so sorry but I can't remember the artist's name.

It is a very expensive show to do but there is money to be made. I always do extremely well at the show so it was about the same as it always is for me. But, overall, I think dealers were happier than last year. Everyone I talked to was very happy indeed.

I've done many shows in the U.S. over the past 30 years, including the largest and best during the heyday of miniatures, but this one outdoes them all in quality and size. All miniature lovers should try to get there at least once, if at all possible.

Liz McInnis

NAME's First Online House Party

By AIM Member Janet Smith
of Desert Minis, desert-minis.com



The first Online Houseparty offered by NAME (the National Association of Miniature Enthusiasts) took place this year starting on April 22nd and continuing through April 27th. The theme of this first online houseparty was "Our Miniature World." Modeled after NAME's "real" houseparties, this online event had everything you could imagine, but all available in the comfort of your own home sitting in front of your own computer. Over 700 NAME members participated in this event.

Registration for the event itself took place several months ago and registrants were allowed to specify their favorite scale, which would be used to decide what size souvenirs they would receive. Also several months in advance, the workshops and theme luncheons were announced and participants could sign up ahead of time for these events.

While the committee had been busy at work on this event for months prior to the event, the experience started for most attendees with the receipt of a small box delivered by their local post office. Inside were their souvenirs for the houseparty. The souvenirs at NAME events are made by NAME members, many of whom are miniature business owners. For this event, the souvenirs went along with the online experience and consisted of a computer desk and chair, laptop computer and a plant. An optional "Thursday Night Project" kit was available to build a structure to house all these souvenirs.



Thursday Night Souvenir

Starting to arrive around that same time were the workshop kits that had been ordered as well as the theme luncheon gifts. The box also contained some other surprises in the form of "tote bag" favors, small items made and contributed by NAME members and clubs.

During the show itself, all events were online. Some were real time events held in the chatrooms where attendees gathered just to talk about minis; some were workshops where students and instructors gathered in chatrooms to talk about the kits they were working on. Garage sale items were posted on the NAME auction site with low Buy-it-Now prices that sold out almost as fast as they were listed and auctions ran throughout the week. Many were "events" available through the website whenever the participant could sit in front of their computer and peruse the ever changing houseparty website. On the website were the

roundtable kits available for sale, the sales room with some fabulous online specials offered by a wide variety of dealers. There were presentations on different topics like glues and 3D printing. And there was a lot of miniature eye-candy available on our exhibits pages!

Attendees were placed in groups of 10 and encouraged to share their houseparty experiences with their tablemates through email. At the end of the event, the much coveted centerpieces (wonderful scenes

including hand painted 1/12 scale sofas with a variety of miniature houses around them) were given out to one member of each table.

And, of course, what would a NAME show be without an opportunity to win things! Door prizes were given out before and during the houseparty and houseparty helpers coupons were available to all attendees (one was complimentary and others could be had for additional donations to NAME).

While there were challenges along the way, both for the committee members who dealt with behind the scenes technical glitches and attendees who had problems finding their way around, most problems were smoothed out as the week went along and the overall experience left many attendees asking, "When is the next one?" Spoiler alert! There is already a small group starting to think about the next one so keep an eye on your Miniature Gazette or the NAME website at www.miniatures.org!

Janet Smith

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Centerpieces



Souvenirs

The Miniature...

GRAPEVINE

VIOLA'S DOLLS

I recently hosted a miniature get-together for artists and collectors. It was held at my home and guests brought their new and used miniature items to offer for sale. They also brought not-for-sale miniatures they had purchased or made to show to the rest of us. Along with some over-bought miniature items that they were willing to give away.

We talked about our mini experiences and shared hints and ideas. We visited the various tables and in some cases decided to purchase some of the items that were offered. Later we left for a no-host lunch at a nearby family restaurant.

Because we all enjoyed it, it was decided to repeat it again in approximately a year. I live in Huntington Beach, California and if anyone is interested in joining us next year, please email me at dollsmini@aol.com.

IMPORTANT TO KNOW: Guests are not required to bring anything for show, for sale, or for free. Nor is there any expectation that visitors will buy any of the for-sale items. This is simply an introduction to what each of us collects or makes available for sale.

viola williams

www.violasdolls.com



BB MINIATURES

This is a small miniature book measuring only 21mm high and 16mm across. It was inspired by the exquisite watch parts that are available and which feature on the front cover. The subject of the book is Steampunk and it features pictures of some wonderful Steampunk creations and on the opposite page, credits to the makers of the pieces. The cover is a bronze coloured leather with the watch parts embedded into it in a design. The book is \$30 (US) plus \$6 postage which in pounds is a mere £21.50 altogether. Barbara accepts payments by PayPal.

The book is available from Barbara Brear of BBMiniatures.

www.bbminiatures.homestead.com/



Grapevine Prepared by AIM Member Malcolm Smith
malcolm@malcolmsminiatures.co.uk

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JANET GRANGER DESIGNS

Visit Janet Granger's new Etsy shop!!

You now have the choice of viewing the miniature needlepoint kits on Janet Granger's main website, www.janetgranger.co.uk, or her NEW Etsy shop, 'Dollhouse Embroidery'!

If you are not familiar with Etsy, it is a web portal similar to Ebay, where sellers set up 'shops' which are all craft-based.

So, it's a great place to find all sorts of miniature items and supplies, and also embroidery kits and supplies. Janet says, 'I have been meaning to open an Etsy shop for several years(!), but the 'to-do' list always got in the way.'

Now, however, the shop is ready and open for business. At the moment, it has a large selection of the 200+ kits from her range on it, and she is working to put more items on every day. There are several reasons to look at the kits in the Etsy shop, which would benefit you:

There is the facility to save items you like to your 'Favourites' list, so you can use the Etsy shop to compile your own wishlist of things you might want

to buy later, to save you searching for items again at a later date. This facility isn't possible yet on the main www.janetgranger.co.uk website.

Etsy allows each product to have five different image views, so you can see each item as a close-up (stitched), in a room-setting, as an 'exploded kit' (that is, with all the contents spread out clearly in one picture), the front of the packet, and the reverse of the packet, so that you can see exactly what you will receive once you purchase it.

Every kit shown is in stock and ready to go, just like on the main website, and kit prices are the same as the main website.

If you would like to, please 'Favourite' the shop and tell your friends about it!

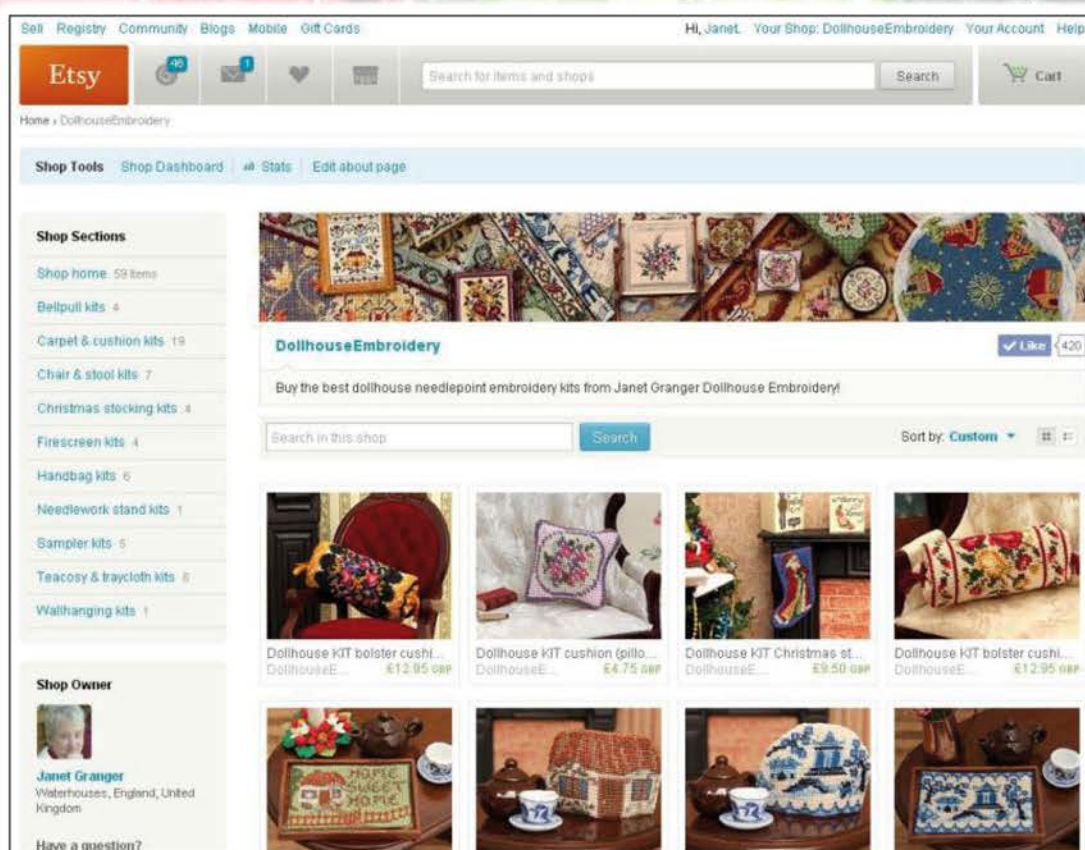
Janet would be very interested to hear any feedback from you about the new Etsy shop, so please email her at janet@janetgranger.co.uk with your comments.

You can access the Janet Granger Dollhouse Embroidery Etsy shop at:

www.etsy.com/uk/shop/DollhouseEmbroidery

and the main Janet Granger Designs website here:

www.janetgranger.co.uk





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Wendy Smale



www.artisansinminiature.com

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